

ED 387 120

IR 017 347

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TITLE Computers and Schools.
INSTITUTION Australian Council for Educational Research,
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REPORT NO ISBN-0-86431-183-4
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 149p.
AVAILABLE FROM Australian Council for Educational Research, Ltd., 19
Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124,
Australia.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Reports
- Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Case Studies; Comparative Analysis; Computer Assisted
Instruction; *Computer Uses in Education; Elementary
Secondary Education; Foreign Countries;
*Microcomputers; Surveys
IDENTIFIERS Access to Computers; *Australia; *Laptop Computers

ABSTRACT

This book recounts what happened when a set of 25 laptop computers was introduced into each of 10 Australian schools (Camberwell, Anglican Girls Grammar School; Caulfield Grammar School; Frankston High School; Jamieson Park Secondary College; Kilvington Baptist Girls Grammar School; Korowa Anglican Girls' School; Mallacoota P-12 College; Methodist Ladies College; Trinity Grammar School; and Xavier College). They were schools with very different environments and experiences in education computing. In their own words, 10 teachers tell what happened in their schools and how they evaluated the impact of these laptops on students and teachers. A large part of the report is given to their case studies--the experiments and surveys they conducted, and the responses, attitudes, and concerns of parents and staff members which they collected. The development of project teams and the content of the project team's meetings are offered as background information. A comprehensive survey was distributed to 259 Victorian schools, and 176 were returned (68% response rate). The survey instrument consisted of five sections: school characteristics; computers used in the schools and at home; the use of computers by students; the use of computers by teachers for teaching; and problems with the use of computers. Results of the questionnaire are provided in the following categories: computers in school and at home; use of computers by teachers for teaching; use of computers by students; use of laptops by students; use of computers for administration; and software use in schools. Results from the "problems" section of the questionnaire are compared to an International Education Association Survey in 19 countries. The report concludes with a summary of the projects team's responses. Data is presented in 34 tables. An appendix provides the questionnaire to schools. (MAS)

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